

P R O C E E D I N G S
OF THE
LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, October 28, 1969

Wild Life & Fisheries Bldg.
400 Royal Street,
New Orleans, Louisiana

Reporter: Paula A. Hillis



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Stenotypists

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P R O C E E D I N G S

. . . . The Board Meeting of the Wild
Life & Fisheries Commission convened at 10:00
o'clock a.m. on Tuesday, October 28, 1969, at the
Wild Life and Fisheries Building, 400 Royal Street,
New Orleans, Louisiana, Mr. J. G. Jones, Chairman,
presiding

THERE WERE PRESENT:

MR. J. G. JONES, Chairman

MR. H. C. WRIGHT, Vice-Chairman

MR. C. M. HOFFPAUER

MR. C. A. GUIDRY

MR. J. E. KYLE, JR.

MR. HOBSON NORRIS

MR. J. L. WINFREE

MR. J. W. THOMPSON

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A G E N D A

1. Approval of the minutes of the meeting
of June 20, 1969.



- 3
2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of September 23, 1969.
 3. Discussion on the proposal of turning the Breton National Wildlife Refuge into a wilderness area.
 4. Announcement of the Commission meeting for the month of November.

MR. RICHARD YANCEY:

5. Request for temporary dam on Catahoula Lake.
6. Discussion of the Saline Wildlife Management Area Livestock Removal.

MR. T. B. FORD:

7. Request for dredging permit for sand from the Mississippi River between Mile 203.5 and Mile 204.0 out from the West Bank by Marshland Dredging Company.
8. Consideration of opening the oyster season in the Calcasieu Lake Area.
- 8a. Consideration of bids received on construction of Houma Field Station.



MR. ALLAN ENSMINGER:

4

9. Discussion on the future hunting activities on the Pass-a-Loutre Waterfowl Management Area.
10. Consideration of purchasing the Shilstone camp on the Salvador W.M.A.
11. Adoption of resolution to include portion of Missouri Pacific Railroad that runs from Oakridge to Collinston, La. which is adjacent to the northern boundary of our Coulee Refuge as a part of refuge.

MR. JOE L. HERRING:

12. Consideration of doe deer season in certain portions of Tensas Parish.
13. Consideration of Madison Parish Police Jury request for any sex deer season on Paw-Paw Island.
14. Consideration of permit for dredging boat channel on Lake Bistineau.

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THE CHAIRMAN: The meeting will now come to order.



The first item of business is the approval 5
of the minutes of the meeting of June 20th, 1969.

What is your pleasure?

MR. GUIDRY: I so move.

MR. KYLE: I second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr.
Guidry and seconded by Mr. Kyle.

Is there any discussion on the motion?

(NO RESPONSE)

THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, so ordered.

Item Number 2, on the Agenda is the
approval of the minutes of the meeting of September
23rd, 1969.

What is your pleasure?

MR. KYLE: So moved.

MR. GUIDRY: I second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Kyle and
seconded by Mr. Guidry.

Is there any discussion or any objection?

(NO RESPONSE)

Hearing none, so ordered.

The next item of business is Mr. Yancey's



discussion on the proposal of turning the Breton National Wildlife Refuge into a wilderness area.

MR. YANCEY: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission, and Ladies and Gentlemen:

The United States Interior Department recently announced that they were giving consideration to giving the Breton National Wildlife Refuge the status of a wilderness area, and when the publicity came out in the news media here in New Orleans quite a few questions were asked by the sportsmen and other users of this area as to exactly how this would affect their activities and what it would mean insofar as a future use of the island and the area that would be concerned insofar as they were concerned.

At the last Commission meeting, representatives of the New Orleans Sportsmen's League were present at the Commission meeting to learn what they could about this wilderness proposal and at the last meeting the Commission stated that it was going to look into the matter and then perhaps arrive at some decision as to whether it would accept this proposal at today's meeting and this is where we stand



now.

7

We have had conferences with representatives from the United States Fish & Wildlife Service during the past month and we have with us today representatives of the Fish & Wildlife Service who are prepared to clear the air on some of the questions that have arisen in connection with this proposal.

I think there are others in addition to representatives of the Fish & Wildlife Service who want to be heard about this matter today.

We have with us Curtis Wilson, who is Assistant Regional Supervisor, North Division of Refuge, U.S. Interior Department, and we would like to call on him first to explain the wilderness proposal and just what it will mean to the future use of that area by sports fishermen and other users of the area.

Mr. Wilson, could you make your comments at this time?

MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission, Ladies and Gentlemen:



It is our pleasure to be here today to explain the wilderness proposal as it pertains to Breton National Wildlife Refuge and to answer any questions that we possibly can to clarify just what this wilderness designation will mean.

If some of you -- and I am sure some of you have -- have had an opportunity to read our brochure that was prepared prior to the November 12th hearing which will be heard in Chalmette where proponents and opponents of this wilderness proposal will have an opportunity to express their views concerning the Breton Wilderness proposal.

This brochure outlines fully what the wilderness designation will mean to the area, but essentially, it all boils down to the fact that placing any area in a wilderness designation means that it will be maintained in its natural condition for prosperity. This is what we are interested in.

In 1964, there was a directive to the Department of Interior and other Federal agencies to study certain areas of 5,000 acres or more, contiguous acres or roadless islands, to see if they



might fit into this wilderness category and this has led to the study of the Breton National Wildlife Refuge for inclusion in the wilderness system.

Now, the wilderness areas as stated in the brochure will be administered so as to preserve this wilderness character and shall be devoted to the public purposes of recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historical uses.

Wilderness classification does not remove an area from the National Wild Life Refuge System, but if classified as wilderness, the area will still be administered as an integral part of the refuge system.

Now, if we can answer any questions directly, maybe I can summarize our position as far as the continued public use of the Breton Refuge in the portion of the Chandeleur Chain which is also a part of the Breton National Wildlife Refuge.

There may be some confusion as to just what the refuge consists of.

MR. HOFFPAUER: Where does your



jurisdiction start?

10

MR. WILSON: There is an area in this brochure. This is not the final word, of course -- it is as accurate as it could have been made at that time. There was some conflicting opinion between the State of Louisiana and the Federal Government. Actually, I believe, that the Attorney General of Louisiana held that the mean low water mark was a line -- in fact, subsequent investigations have revealed that the mean high water mark as the actual boundary for the Breton National Wildlife Refuge extends only to the mean high water mark which means that the portion of the beach between the high tide mark and the water level is actually state-owned property.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any questions from anyone directed to Mr. Wilson?

Would you identify yourself, please, and come to the microphone after Mr. Wilson finishes his presentation. We will give you the opportunity to make your presentation now. We are just sort of limited to questions.

MR. RUDESILL: I am President of



Chandaleur-Ho Fish & Rodeo Association.

11

I know the answer to the question because it has been answered for me, but I want it as a matter of record.

Mr. Wilson stated that the Island as a wilderness area would be open for recreational purposes. I would like for him at this time to state the time period that it will be open, whether or not it would be available for any camping overnight.

MR. WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Rudesill.

In answer to the question, as accurately as I can put it -- and I don't want to confuse anybody, so after I finish, if there is still a question about it, feel free to have me explain it further.

We recognize the value of the Breton Wildlife Refuge as an area of very vital interest to fishermen and other nature lovers in this area. We will abide by the restrictions as pertaining to the wilderness area in that we will not be able to allow the erection of any permanent facilities on



the refuge property.

However, we recognize that camping is an integral part of the idea behind the wilderness system. This is permissible. We again will not install any sanitary or recreational facilities because this would be in conflict with the purpose of the Wilderness Act.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any other questions for Mr. Wilson?

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Chairman, I don't have a question, but I am reading from the excerpt of the Wilderness Act and I am going to take this time to read it.

This provision of Section IV of the Wilderness Act declares that: Number one, the Act is to be within and supplemental to the purposes for which National Wild Life Refuges are to be established.

Number two, the wilderness areas shall be administered so as to preserve their wilderness character and shall be devoted to the public purposes of recreational, scenic, scientific, educational,



conservation, and historical uses.

13

So it would appear to me that certainly it could be used for overnight camping, is that correct?

MR. WILSON: We all recognize that there will be overnight camping on the refuge as it exists today and if it is made or designated as a wilderness area.

MR. RUDESILL: Mr. Wilson is still not answering the question. He says that they recognize that there may be. I would like a statement made whether or not we will be permitted to camp overnight.

MR. WILSON: Well, I guess the best answer to that is a one-word answer that everybody would recognize: The answer is yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Clyde Smith, do you have a question?

MR. SMITH: Mr. Wilson, for the record I have a question to ask:

I am familiar with the activities that concern Colonel Rudesill and one of the things that



I believe has never been answered would be whether Chandaleur-Ho Fish & Rodeo Association -- when they conduct their three-day outing on Breton Island, would it be permissible to install a temporary fixed structure or an outhouse for sanitary purposes? Nothing permanent, but would it be proper to go out there and install above the water line a fixed building for sanitary purposes?

MR. WILSON: This question, of course, is a good one and I don't know if I should give you a positive, definite answer on that today or not. I think that we will have to certainly recognize that there will be a problem of sanitation if large numbers of people use the Island.

I would like to say yes, but I don't know really if this will be permissible if the area is in fact designated as a wilderness area.

If I might at this point -- I don't claim to be a total authority on the wilderness system. Mr. Johnson who came with me from Atlanta is more familiar than I am with this particular aspect of it. He might possibly add something to what I have said



that would clarify that.

15

MR. JOHNSON: I would say that although this area is put in a wilderness system, that it still would be subject to rules and regulations of the National Wild Life Refuge and these rules and regulations are subject to change.

We would hope that this Secretary of the Interior and the next one in office would allow us to permit camping on this refuge and other refuges as well. However, we could not make this a firm promise unless -- well, unless the Wilderness Act specifically says that we will have camping on Breton Refuge. Of course, you know that wilderness proposals are not final until Congress passes on each one individually. Each wilderness area is a separate Act of Congress in itself.

We have rules and regulations that change and if Secretary Hinkel says that we are not going to have camping, I don't think we will have camping, but if he says we will, we will. So, this is just one of the things we will have to abide with, I believe.

THE CHAIRMAN: To paraphrase the words



that Mr. Thompson used yesterday -- am I correct?-- that really before any changes are made by Congress designating it as wilderness, to close it, anything else, all this is going to do is that Congress is going to pass an Act that is going to specifically provide that it is a wilderness and we will -- well, now, since it is a wilderness, the rights that people have -- and actually you are not in any way placing any more restrictions on it than at present, is that correct?

MR. THOMPSON: That is correct and we also may not be any more liberal with our uses.

MR. HOFFPAUER: Do you know any wilderness area that you can't camp on? I don't.

MR. JOHNSON: No, I really don't. Like Curtis Wilson said, camping is certainly a part of these big wilderness areas out west. They come in and camp for days.

We have a public hearing in Chalmette and as Congress considers it and as Secretary Hinkel looks at it, this will all be decided.

MR. WINFREE: Actually, Congress would



designate this as a wilderness area after the public hearing and if they would desire, make a wilderness area and that would really support the fact that no one could go out there and build permanent structures and destroy this like they could do now under the refuge.

17

MR. JOHNSON: Of course, now the Secretary of the Interior could lease the whole area to an oil company. They could build one derrick after another, they could build anything, but if Congress puts this in the wilderness before anybody can build anything,--

MR. WINFREE: It will take an Act of Congress?

MR. JOHNSON: Correct.

MR. KYLE: In other words, you don't trust the future Secretaries of the Interior is what you are saying?

(LAUGHTER)

That's just what he said.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any other questions for Mr. Wilson?

MR. BRIDGEMAN: What about posting that



area? That was brought up yesterday. Yesterday I understand one of you gentlemen made a statement that someone had come on there with a scooter-bike and ran into a nesting group of birds. What would you do in that case? Would you post that these fishermen and anybody else could not go around that area? Is that right or is that wrong? In other words, any place this thing says that there is like a nesting ground -- they have the right to keep people off of that part of the area? Can you post and keep that land free during that particular season because that is part of wilderness? You are preserving it.

MR. WILSON: If it's part of the Refuge right now, of course, our major purpose of being there is for protection of the wildlife resources, but we think that all of these public uses we are speaking about are perfectly compatible with the wilderness status. We see no conflict right now and we have these regulations that apply right now. A person cannot legally go out --

FROM THE FLOOR: There has been no posting out there?



MR. WILSON: Yes, sir, the boundary is posted. Now, we have a lot of storms, gales, and what-not, and we have a major posting maintenance job ahead of us right now. We have to go out and repost the area following Hurricane Camille, and it is a continual job.

I think what you refer to is what we would like -- to properly protect the nesting colonies of turtles and gulls and skimmers and other birds out there. We will annually determine where these nesting colonies have concentrated and these areas will be zoned and no public use will be allowed. I cannot help but believe that this is perfectly logical to do.

MR. WINFREE: That would only apply for a certain period?

MR. WILSON: It is a period of approximately two months, maybe 10 weeks, when the nesting colonies are active on the Island.

MR. WINFREE: Let's assume that you did zone certain areas of the Island and let's assume that your survey shows that the birds had moved from



one nesting area to another from year to year and that your research people followed that up and posted that area, it would only be zoned for a period of let's say two months, is that correct?

MR. WILSON: For that nesting season.

MR. WINFREE: And then it would be removed?

MR. WILSON: Yes, the seasons would be modified only to protect birds. That's the sole purpose of it.

MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Wilson, not being a bird watcher, but I am interested in birds of all types, I recognize the fact that if you have a colony of birds that it is your duty and your job to protect it for us. This I think is correct from your statements, and for the record I will say that I called Mr. Glasgow several weeks ago and I think you are here probably at my request of Dr. Glasgow because at the time I told him that I wasn't particularly -- didn't know whether I was particularly for or against this. Dr. Glasgow, who is for the wilderness area -- I asked him some pertinent questions which you have



already answered here and I reiterate for the record, 21
namely, that just cutting it right blunt, that Dr.
Glasgow -- I asked him, "Well, Dr. Glasgow, how
about the changes that could be made?" He said,
"Jimmie, today one man in a number of different
locations"-- your Atlanta office, your Washington
office -- "can change the policy tonight, tomorrow.
It is a new policy. You have no choice. It is
already the Federal Government's. When it becomes
a wilderness area, only Congress can change these
policies."

So, the policies are set forth in -- I
think we have most of the Acts and the Acts are
available in the beginning. Last month I probably
was against this becoming a wilderness area. After
completing analyzing it, one of the questions that
I asked Mr. Glasgow which I am sure we have heard
about, the silver dollar, the gold dollar, -- "Every
man that goes fishing is going to have to pay \$10.00."

His answer was to me, "Well, Jimmie,
from an economic standpoint, from a feasibility,
there is not enough land to warrant this system."



I can't guarantee that, but I understand, too, from Clint, I believe it was, or someone this morning, that Congress have passed an Act or an amendment to the Wilderness Act, an amendment where only the more highly developed areas can this charge be made or will this charge be made and probably specifically named and designated. I would be inclined -- I am at this point sold on this becoming a wilderness area and I so move that this Commission go on record as supporting the move for this area to become part of the Wilderness Act. I hope I get a second.

MR. GUIDRY: I second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved and seconded. Is there any discussion?

MR. KYLE: I'm going to vote against it because I feel it isn't the time or the place. These people to me have said that they don't trust the future Secretaries of the Interior.

MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Kyle, you are wrong. That gentleman did not say that. He said he couldn't anticipate the future Secretaries' thoughts, wishes,



or desires. No, he didn't say that. I will defend the gentleman. Are you trying to get him fired or something?

MR. KYLE: I said he essentially to me -- he essentially implied that.

MR. THOMPSON: No, no, he didn't imply that.

MR. KYLE: This hearing is -- they are interested in it. If we are going to have any effect, anything else, I don't -- I think the place to register a protest is with the Congressional Committee and I see no reason at this time to stick our neck out on it because I can see nothing either pro or con.

MR. WINFREE: Let me say something, Mr. Chairman: At the last meeting of this Commission, several gentlemen appeared before this Commission and several statements were read into the record. At that time we agreed that we would take a stand one way or another of the policy of this Commission.

At the hearing which was to be held sometime in November at Belle Chase, we were only to decide whether or not this Commission would support or



reject such a proposal to be submitted to Congress after this public hearing. So, what Mr. Thompson's motion is, is merely doing what we said we were going to do. The gentlemen are here. If they are opposed to this thing, they still have the right to go before this public board or public hearing in November at Belle Chase or Chalmette or wherever it's going to be, but certainly we must have a position in this to say whether the Commission of the State of Louisiana Wild Life & Fisheries Commission agrees in principle of putting this thing a wilderness area if Congress so designates. So, with a second to the motion, I am ready for the questions, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Wilson.

Are there any other questions for Mr. Wilson?

I don't want to belabor the point. If you have a new question for him, fine, but let's not repeat it.

MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, we have several people who came here, to be heard on this matter.

THE CHAIRMAN: I plan to have them heard



as soon as Mr. Wilson finishes his presentation.

I was going to ask if there were any other persons in this audience that desired to make a presentation. Mr. Wilson is available for questions. Everyone will have their say, but are there any other questions from Mr. Wilson first?

MR. WILSON: Thank you for the opportunity of being here and answering these questions for you and I would encourage everyone of you to be at the public hearing whether you are pro or con. I want you to be there and state your views about this thing. Thank you very much.

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Wilson, I would like to make one observation. Mr. Chairman, as I understand it, this public hearing -- who is going to conduct, the Department of Interior?

MR. WILSON: Yes, sir, these are conducted -- the man that actually will conduct the hearing is Mr. Daniel Johnson, who was formerly with our Bureau.

MR. WINFREE: At that time everyone wishing to be heard will be heard. There will be



catalogs and then it will all be submitted finally to the Department of Interior or to Congress and it is up to Congress to decide. No one else.

MR. WINFREE: Not the Department of the Interior?

MR. WILSON: One can make a recommendation, but it is up to Congress to make the decision.

MR. WINFREE: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Wilson, on behalf of the Commission, let me express our appreciation to you and of course, your superiors for having you available and making this presentation to us.

MR. WILSON: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Now, any other persons desire to speak on the subject?

You can be either pro or con.

Yes, sir. Would you come to the microphone.

MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I would like to take a few minutes to speak primarily as a citizen, although I am a member of the Chandeleur-Ho Rodeo Association, and I speak in support of the wilderness



proposal. I believe some of the discussions, with all due respect to the people that have made comments, -- the discussions with all due respect to the people that have made comments -- I believe we have somewhat overlooked the forest for the trees.

If we look at the total environment, as many of us know, I believe we are in the process of systematically destroying our natural environment. Now, this particular proposal involves perhaps only one small segment of the environment in this area of Louisiana, but I do think that perhaps collectively that we should start somewhere to try to maintain what we have of our wild environment. I think this is a good starting point.

Six months ago I was firmly in support of the idea that we ought to build permanent structures on Breton Island -- that we wanted a marina out there; that we wanted a hotel out there; and that we wanted to live there, and we wanted to fish out there. I have since changed that opinion. I still believe that we should use the Island for recreational uses. I am a fisherman and I have fished



Breton Island. I have fished that Island and I enjoyed it thoroughly. I am also a small-boat fisherman so I don't get out there too often and I would like more ready access to it, but I believe after the natural disaster that occurred a couple of months ago, that no one, no one is going to build permanent structures on that Island with the possibility of a hurricane coming through.

However, if we look at the boating statistics in the State of Louisiana, the number of boats registered in this State are increasing at approximately 20 per cent per year. In three to five years that means that there will probably be somewhere in the order of 200 to 300,000 small boats registered in this state. At the same time, we anticipate that the islands are going to become more accessible to small boats. We look forward to the time when there will be the walk jetties along the Mississippi Gulf Outlet, when they are completed all the way out to the Island, and it will allow small boats much more ready access to that area than is presently available.



I think at this time we all would like facilities in the area to service small boats. I was glad to hear that the Interior Department might approve overnight camping on the Island. I don't think their position on this was very clear, although I heard a clear "yes" from Mr. Wilson, I heard a "maybe" from somebody else.

I think that is a little bit unfortunate, but nevertheless I think that when the economics of the situation justifies it, we will have facilities out in that area.

I don't think there is going to be permanent facilities built on the Island. I think they are going to be floating facilities that can be hauled back into sheltered areas during the season when it appears that that is why, and I don't think that the wilderness proposal is in any way going to disturb our fishing and/or in any way disturb our recreation. I think in the long run, it will benefit both the sports fisheries and the maintenance of the wild environment, which supports our sports fisheries.

I think basically that's what I had to say.



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I hope the Board will approve the wilderness proposal. 30

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Is there anyone else that desires to talk?

MR. RUDESILL: Recently we had our Board Meeting. Although he did tell you he was a member of the Association, he failed to tell you that he was Vice-President of the Association. Recently we had our Board Meeting and at our Board Meeting this subject took up two and a half hours of our meeting. It was the final decision of the Board to recommend at our General Meeting on Thursday night that the Association oppose the wilderness area.

Of course, this was based on the premise that camping would not be permitted on the Island in the event of a wilderness area adoption by Congress.

If we all permitted camping facilities or rather permission to camp on the Island we do not have to resort to permanent housing type structures. We can very well use large tents for toilet facilities, the same that we did with the building that we illegally erected on the Island and the hurricane saw fit to take it away.



Breton Island in particular will be very important to our Association. Our Association was organized for the small boat owners. We have over 700 members at the present time. We had an outstanding rodeo last year. We had over 100 tents on this Island and everyone enjoyed it and they were only using a small portion of one end of the Island.

I feel that the Association would recommend to this Commission that if they see fit to vote "yes," in favor of the wilderness project, that we would request that an amendment to this bill be included to spell out what this recreational provision means, spell out that it will permit camping on the Island without permanent facilities, spell out that the camping will be permitted by the Department of Interior at times when it does not conflict with the hatching season of the birds or the season for the turtles.

I had requested from Dr. Glasgow permission to retain the building or to erect another building and use the Island for our coming rodeo on the 12th, 13th, and 14th of June. He informs me that



the permission could not be granted at this time because that was the time that the birds would be using the Island. We can very well change the date of our convention if we know several months in advance when you anticipate the hatching season.

What we are asking for, gentlemen, is approximately four to six acres of ground for camping. They will not be scattered all over the area and the reason we have picked Breton Island is because of the fact that the U.S. Engineers have assured us that the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet will be jettied on both sides beyond Breton Island. This would give us protected water through that channel.

I think it will be an ideal place for camping. Yes, we are looking out for ourselves now and we are looking out for our future generations. We should maintain wilderness areas, but we should also look out for the recreation of the coming generation, and if you vote "yes" as a wilderness area, the way I see it and the way I read the law, or the way it stands at the present time, this will



preclude the use of future generations, of the use of this Island for recreational purposes such as we are talking about and this is the only area available to the people in this particular area of Louisiana or the Gulf Coast for that type of outdoor life.

Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does anyone else desire to be heard?

MR. WINFREE: I would like to ask a question of Mr. Wilson again.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Wilson, Mr. Winfree has a question for you, please, sir.

MR. WINFREE: Based on what this gentleman just said, -- correct me if I am wrong, -- as of right now, Breton Island being in the Breton National Refuge, aren't there more restrictions on it right now than there would be under the wilderness?

MR. WILSON: No, I don't think there are any more. I think the same restrictions and regulations that apply now would apply under the wilderness system. We don't anticipate any



additional restrictions. We see no reason for any additional restrictions.

34

MR. WINFREE: Well, I am in complete sympathy with what this gentleman was saying, but this motion before this Commission was -- we can only do two things. We can either not do anything at all or agree in principle in putting this thing to a wilderness area. I don't think we are in a position that this gentleman would like us to be, to request Congress to put these certain amendments in there. We can only either support this thing or not support this thing.

I think we are talking about a Wilderness Act which I am reading and is very well spelled out for recreational purposes that would be administered down the line as to what you could do and couldn't do. What we are talking about now is whether the Commission would agree in principle, in policy, to make this a wilderness area if Congress so desires.

MR. WILSON: Well, I hope I have answered your questions.

MR. WINFREE: You did.



MR. WILSON: We don't anticipate further restrictions if it is made part of the wilderness system.

THE CHAIRMAN: Clyde Smith.

MR. SMITH: Clyde D. Smith.

In response to the question that I asked Mr. Wilson concerning temporary out-buildings, I had a telephone call last night from a Mr. Ernest Dickerman, who is South-Eastern Area Representative for the Wilderness Society. He telephoned me from Washington and we had quite a lengthy discussion. He wanted to know what the opposition to the wilderness area was down here and I told him that some of the opposition was coming from the Chandeleur-Ho Group and I advised him of those things they were opposed to.

One of these things was the proposed out-buildings and I think you gentlemen are aware of the fact that the Wilderness Society is a national organization interested in fostering wilderness areas.

Mr. Dickerman told me that in the interest of good hygiene, it would be only feasible for the Interior Department to permit Chandeleur-Ho to



establish temporary out-buildings on the island.

I discussed camping with him and he said that was one of the main and primary purposes of establishing wilderness areas, so that people could go in without mechanized means and camp on these areas and in that manner they could become more familiarized with what we have or what we know as wilderness areas.

I have been authorized by the Board of Directors of the New Orleans Sportsmen's League and I want to emphasize this is strictly Board action. It is not action by the general membership of the New Orleans Sportsmen's League, but at a special meeting this last week, the meeting called for a discussion of this issue and the Board asked me to inform the Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Commission that they were in favor of transferring the Breton Refuge system into a Federal Wilderness system.

Thank you.

Now Mr. Futrell.

MR. FUTRELL: Bill Futrell, Chairman of the Local Sierra Club here in New Orleans. We have a



membership of about 150 here in the city. We started 37
organizing about one year ago. I just want to say
two sentences and then sit down.

The Sierra Club is a large conservation
organization which is very much interested in camping
and hiking.

I have camped in two of the wilderness
areas out west and I think I am familiar with the
use -- I have camped for two summers in wilderness
areas -- I think I am familiar of the way it is
administered and the way that users use it and any-
thing that Colonel Rudesill has described in the
way the wilderness areas are used -- from his
description of his activities, it seems that his
activities are consistent with the way the wilderness
system works in practice and what we need down here
in this area. We have been slighted by the Department
of the Interior. We have got great things down here
and with the population boom being what it is, we
want more and we want to form citizen groups which
can support the work of this Commission, can support
the legislators who are friendly with the work of this



Commission.

38

I hope that Don can speak now.

MR. WINFREE: What was the name of the club?

MR. FUTRELL: Sierra. It is California-based and a hundred years old. It has gone national.

MR. BRADBURN: I am Conservation Director of the local Sierra Club and we would like to go on record as supporting this wilderness proposal.

I think I am in the same position of not really quite understanding what the opposition is because national wild life refuges are to protect the wild life principally, and making this a wilderness area is more for people and your general enjoyment of it.

The Wilderness Act is to allow camping and this sort of use of the environment by people. Since it is apparently a wild life refuge, this is going to produce and impose restrictions on the wild life refuge people. In fact, they can no longer manage or change the environment themselves as they have been so inclined to do from time to time, and it will



protect this permanently unless changed by Act of Congress in the State in which it is now found.

As a matter of fact, our club believes that this area should be enlarged, that it has not been imaginative enough and that it should be enlarged to include the North Islands which are pelican nesting areas, state-owned. If the pelicans ever returned -- and we hope that they will -- it will be the largest pelican rookery, their principal pelican rookery between the mouth of the Mississippi River and the West Coast of Florida and no other uses are made of North Island to my knowledge at this time.

We would also like to say Horne Island in Mississippi be included and designated as a wilderness area since we believe that it is a prime example of the barrier island, it would be much more accessible to the people who are going to the island to camp or to enjoy the environment in that way rather than simply fishing.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir.

We propose a discussion.



I think that Mr. Hoffpauer can solve maybe one of the key problems and that's about bathroom facilities on the Island. Tell him what you said you would do about that on State property.

MR. HOFFPAUER: Well, it seems like the main problem is what the bathroom facilities will be. Every year below the high tide mark, you can put those port-a-johns. I mean there is no problem there. I don't know why you want one on the top of the Island anyway. The mosquitos are bad up there.

(LAUGHTER)

THE CHAIRMAN: The only responsibility you have is if the water comes up, you are going to have to move them up on the higher ground.

MR. RUDESILL: In reply to Mr. Hoffpauer, if you remember I stated we didn't have to have a permanent building. We could have a tent and as far as these travel cans or port-a-cans go, we had experience with those the first year and if I may indulge on the Commission a couple of seconds, I will tell you something funny that happened.

We had two of them and they were mounted



on the barge. We didn't realize that these tanks were supposed to be equipped with bags. (LAUGHTER) We had the travel cans at the end of the barge and after the end of the second day and everybody departed except about three of the workers and Committeemen and myself and the tugboat crew -- and there was one lady, the wife of the captain of the tugboat -- and the boys came to me and said, "What are we going to do with these travel cans? We have got to lay them down in the truck to take them back to New Orleans. We have no way of emptying them."

Well, it so happened that the barge that the travel cans were located on was a water barge and it had a diesel engine with a four-inch firehose attached to it, so you can use your imagination as to how I emptied those travel cans. I tied the end of the nozzle of the hose and kicked the motor on and let it run until the deck was clean.

Then the men turned them over and carried them back by truck to New Orleans.

I would welcome the opportunity of any help in that respect because I think it is a unique



rodeo in that it has camping and it brings the small boat enthusiasts and they can camp on the Island.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir.

MR. WINFREE: You said that you turned on the engines and let the hose run. Did you run, too?

MR. RUDESILL: That's about it. I told the captain, I said, "Captain, you take your wife up there in the pilothouse and don't let her come back here because I don't think she can take it."

MR. THOMPSON: This is all well and good, but I think we are losing the sight of the fact that there is a more major problem, not less trivial. I won't say that it is a minor incident. I suggest at this time and certainly hope that all my colleagues on this Board will vote in favor of the motion that I made, mainly that a resolution be adopted at present at the hearing, at the Chalmette Hearing, that this Commission is in favor of Breton Island becoming a wilderness area and may I point out again that I think it is a forecast or a survey -- I don't know exactly the source of my information, but that only a short



decade from now, they are forecasting from Houston, Texas to New Orleans to be one stretch, one city, one complete thoroughfare. Certainly, if this happens, we will be extremely lucky if we have a wilderness area, if we have an area that oilwells cannot be built on. Maybe our children's children will be able to enjoy some of this. I strongly urge that my colleagues vote in favor of this and since this has been called for a question, we consider it at this time.

"WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of the Interior is considering the Breton National Wildlife Refuge as a wilderness area, and
WHEREAS, the wilderness status will assure the future maintenance of this invaluable and irreplaceable area in its present natural and productive condition, and
WHEREAS, this can be done without interfering with the



use of this refuge by sportfishermen or impeding access into the area by sportfishermen by boat or plane, and WHEREAS, sport fishing and overnight camping will be permitted at no charge to the recreational users of the area, and WHEREAS, the wilderness status will apply only to the existing federally owned land presently located within the boundaries of the Breton National Wildlife Refuge.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby go on record as favoring a declaration of wilderness status for the Breton National Wildlife Refuge, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED



that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the U.S. Department of Interior and all members of the Louisiana Congressional delegation."

I will now call for the question.
All those in favor of the motion, signify by raising your hand, please.

(Whereupon, there was a show of hands.)

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Thompson, Mr. Winfree, Mr. North, Mr. Wright, Mr. Guidry.

All those opposed, raise your hand.

MR. KYLE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to be regarded as not voting because I still can't see anything either pro or con in this except the sanitary facilities discussed have been interesting.

THE CHAIRMAN: There are no nays.

Mr. Kyle is not voting. I vote yes.

(Whereupon, a vote was taken and the motion was carried unanimously.)



THE CHAIRMAN: Again, we thank you people for bringing to us the discussions which you did. I trust that you will all be present for the hearing on the 12th.

Shall we proceed.

Incidentally, Mr. Yancey had a telegram from -- who was the telegram from in Washington? -- I know it was pertaining to all of this information and that all of the information in the telegram has been covered in your discussions.

MR. YANCEY: It is from Mr. Brandburg, Executive Director of the Wilderness Society in Washington.

THE CHAIRMAN: But the information in the telegram was covered in your discussions.

The next item on the Agenda is the setting of the dates for our meetings in November and December. It is my understanding that because of the holidays of those months, that it would be a pleasure to set the meeting for November to be on the 13th of November and that the meeting for December would be on the 16th of December, is that correct?



If there are no objections, then we will meet at those times during the months of November and December.

Now we will go to Mr. Yancey for No. 5 on the Agenda about the temporary dam on Catahoula Lake.

MR. YANCEY: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission:

We have received a number of requests that the Commission install a temporary earthen dam in French Fork, LaSalle Parish, Louisiana, for the purpose of increasing water levels on Catahoula Lake.

These requests have come principally from duck hunters that hunt ducks on Catahoula Lake. They are stating that we install this earthen dam in order to hold enough water on the lake this fall for the ducks and the hunters that will use that area.

At present, water levels are very low on the lake and a dam would greatly improve duck hunting when the season begins on November the 14th.



THE CHAIRMAN: Do you recommend it?

MR. YANCEY: I would recommend it.

I also want to point out that we have installed similar dams and the fact that it has become a very crucial matter because of this and has some opposition from the livestock owners up there, against this dam, but we will suggest at this time that the commission express its wishes as to whether or not such a dam should be installed.

THE CHAIRMAN: What is your pleasure?

MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman, I so move that we install it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there a second?

MR. THOMPSON: I second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any discussion?

(NO RESPONSE)

Hearing none, so ordered.

R E S O L U T I O N

BE IT RESOLVED that the
Louisiana Wild Life and
Fisheries Commission shall
install a temporary earthen



dam in French Fork, LaSalle Parish, Louisiana, for the purpose of increasing water levels on Catahoula Lake, as a means of benefiting duck hunting in the central Louisiana area during the season beginning November 15, 1969.

THE CHAIRMAN: Now we will go to item No. 6.

MR. YANCEY: About two years ago, the Commission fenced approximately 50,000 acres of the Commission-owned Saline Wildlife Management Area, up in LaSalle and Catahoula Parishes, and ordered the removal of all livestock from this area. This job is approximately 60 per cent completed since cows and hogs and goats have been removed.

However, we still have a large number of remaining hogs on this area and this poses a really difficult problem, but it should be coped with in view of the competition that we have between these



and animals and the forest game species that we are trying to produce on that land.

We have consulted with the Commission's attorney as to what steps we can possibly take to cope with this problem. We have twice, once in '67 and again in '68, notified all of the livestock owners by registered mail to remove their livestock from this area, and at this point, we still have a very large number of hogs on this area, some are marked, some are unmarked.

Our Commission Attorney advises us that legally we could establish and authorize the hunters to take these unmarked hogs from this area when the deer season opens.

Now, we would recommend at this point that we would authorize the taking of unmarked hogs from the fenced portion of the Saline Game National Area when the deer season opens on December the 26th and they be permitted to take these animals until the end of this segment of the deer season which will run through January the 4th and we would further recommend that all of the livestock owners again be



notified by letter that this action is going to be taken and furthermore that the marked hogs on this area immediately following the hunting season will be impounded in accordance with the Louisiana Revised Statutes and we hope that this will give these people two months in which to come in and take out all of the hogs that they feel are their own on this area and after they have taken their hogs out, then this Commission would take action to finally end this problem.

We hope it would be one for all.

R E S O L U T I O N:

"BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby authorize the taking of unmarked hogs from the fenced portion of the Saline Wildlife Management Area, in LaSalle and Catahoula Parishes, beginning December 26, 1969 and ending January 4, 1970.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that



on January 5, 1970 personnel
of the Louisiana Wild Life
and Fisheries Commission
shall begin impounding marked
and unmarked hogs, disposing
of same in accordance with
LSA RS 3:2891, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that
all known livestock owners
be urged to remove their
hogs from this area prior
to December 26, 1969."

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the
recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. WINFREE: As I understand, Mr.
Chairman, -- as I understand this now, we will notify
the owners of the hogs again by letter and ask them
to remove their marked hogs from the Refuge. We will
do that by letter and then we will also notify all of
the hunters in the area when deer season opens that
they will be able to take unmarked hogs while hunting
deer from the fenced portion of the area of our



Refuge and subsequently when the hunting season is over, we will then impound all unmarked hogs that are still within the fenced area as we would have the right under the law so to do and then the owners would then have to pay an impoundment charge to get their hogs back, is that what you are saying?

MR. YANCEY: That is exactly what I am saying.

MR. WINFREE: I would so move that this Commission take that action.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there a second?

MR. WRIGHT: Is there any discussion on the motion?

(NO RESPONSE)

MR. WRIGHT: Is there any objection?

(NO RESPONSE)

MR. WRIGHT: Hearing none, so ordered.

(Whereupon, a vote was taken and the motion was carried unanimously.)

THE CHAIRMAN: Now I am going to call on Mrs. E. G. Bayer, Jr., who would like to be heard



by the Commission, and let me at first apologize to her by not really putting her first on the agenda. Please accept my apologies, Mrs. Bayer.

MRS. BAYER: Thank you very much, Mr. Jones.

My letter stated that you had the solution to a serious problem.

Gentlemen, this problem has been with you for many years, believe me.

I am Mrs. Bayer from Grand Isle and I am just a concerned citizen. I am very concerned about this problem and have been for many years. Believe me, gentlemen, I have tried to get it solved on the local level. The problem seems to get worse as the years go by.

We are not a wilderness on Grand Isle. We are a municipality and have been for quite some years. Yet, what brought me before you was a little newspaper article, because I still believe that every problem has a solution. This little paper article stated that the Wild Life Commission is the only agency with the authority to prohibit hunting in this



state.

Gentlemen, that is what I am here to ask you. I am here to plead with you that you ban all hunting on the tiny little island. My reasons are many.

I can tell you first of all that it is kind of hard to believe that there should be shooting on such a small area that is a place for people to live. In wild western days, people used to leave their guns in the Sheriff's Office. On Grand Isle, you can ride down the main highway and see trucks stopped and -- BOOM! -- there goes the gun.

Well, gentlemen, the hunters, besides being a danger to the lives on the island, are hurting the area.

For years we tried telling the scout groups about cleaning your environment, beautifying the land, planting trees, because these were things we needed in our environment. Every year we watched the hunters that caused these grassfires.

Now, I have all kinds of pictures here to show you the damage that is done on Grand Isle. While



we have to put up with the weather elements, there are these trees -- and I am sure you men know the value of trees -- that each year their barks did burn by these fires that constantly go on. Soon we won't have our trees any more.

I have before me a letter that I promised that I would read and I am very happy that this schoolteacher wrote this letter and I said it would be read to you gentlemen. He says, "Four years ago I started my teaching career at Grand Isle School. I soon became aware of the many problems facing a concerned individual who wants to make Grand Isle his home.

"Today I am ashamed to invite my friends and family to visit Grand Isle because of the problems that exist on the Island. I am particularly concerned now about the hunting situation that exists on the Island.

How do you explain to visitors the lack of the proper enforcement of the hunting regulations? How do you tell a visitor in your home not to be too concerned about the shotgun pellets falling on the



roof and the windows and on the children playing in the yard? How do you provide for your family's safety when children and immature adults roam the island at will with loaded guns, looking for the doves and the ducks? How do I as a teacher explain conservation and the reasons for hunting and fishing regulations to students who each day witness the countless violations? How can I do my best at school when I know that there is a grassfire near my trailer and that the volunteer Fire Department might not answer the call because they are busy fighting a grassfire at another location? Where do I go when my trailer is full of smoke from the burning grass?

" These, gentlemen, are some of the questions that responsible citizens are asking themselves about the hunters and the related problems on Grand Isle.

The hunters on Grand Isle have been hunting doves on the island since before the first segment of the season opened. They hunt from sunrise to sunset. They hunt near houses where children are



playing. They hunt while the officials stand by and do nothing or little to enforce the hunting regulations. Since the dove season opened, much of the open grass areas on the island have been burned.

"Hunters claim by burning the grass they can find the doves better after they shoot. Is finding a few doves worth the danger to the lives and property?

"I don't think so and I have a hunting license and I hunt, too.

"Our local officials have been made aware of these problems concerning the hunters and the grassfires, but they have yet to take any action that would produce desirable results. I don't have to tell you the many dangers of hunting in populated areas or hunting out of season, but I would like to make you aware of the need for your help and cooperation in enforcing the present regulations and restricting or eliminating hunting on Grand Isle."

This is signed: "Respectfully yours,
JOHN W. WHITTINGTON."

Gentlemen, Grand Isle is no longer a



wilderness.

59

I have all sorts of pictures and I hope you gentlemen do look at these pictures and realize that this problem is here and is caused by these hunters.

Quite recently, one of the camps on Grand Isle burned because of these grassfires and as I say, we are no wilderness like the gentleman here was speaking of. We are a town and if there is any truth in this newspaper article, gentlemen, you can solve that problem.

Could you ban all hunting on Grand Isle? My interest is in the human resources there. You like the wild life and all. I think if Grand Isle was a sanctuary for birds, it would be a sanctuary for people. People would be safe.

Have I kind of made my point?

THE CHAIRMAN: Let me make one observation first: Mrs. Bayer, your problem, even though it may seem small to some people, I think with this Commission it is just as big as any other problem we have on our Agenda, and can we point out that



there is a lot more involved merely than just banning the hunting. There are a lot more things that are involved, and before this Commission I think would want to take any action, it certainly would want to look at the matter very closely. That's the observation I have.

MR. THOMPSON: Mrs. Bayer, I am sorry that I misinterpreted our conversation before this meeting. I personally had a different purpose in mind when you and I were discussing this. However, from what you tell me, I think the newspaper article is in error to some extent because ~~the~~ Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does not have the power to regulate within a municipality which you state that this is. If you have a municipality, I think that your laws will govern, and your people and your Police Department and your Mayor and your Councilmen will have to set the laws of what can be done and where and when guns will be shot and discharged on the Island. I think this is a problem that can be handled by you in your municipality and I would like to tell you that you have the full support of this Commission



of the State Laws which we administer and this Commission will direct our people to enforce all State Laws as we do at all times and I think this is what you want.

MRS. BAYER: Well, I felt confident for one thing that it could be stopped and it should be stopped and if you have looked for years for the solution of a problem and like I said, this newspaper article brought me before you gentlemen. After someone is killed accidentally, of course, I will know that I will be searching for the solution to stopping it and that's what has brought me before you all.

I had the confidence that maybe you could guide me somewhere else if this newspaper article is in error.

Can you help solve that problem?

THE CHAIRMAN: As Mr. Thompson says, we are charged with enforcing certain laws and you have -- you have our absolute guarantee that our people are going to enforce these laws.

Now, there are certain laws that we can't



make that must be enforced by your municipality as Mr. Thompson is saying. Let me call your attention to one thing: You probably recall last year the big fight that we had in Congress about controlling guns and the big arguments that the Wild Life people had about refusing a man the use of his gun.

If we go on your Island and we tell people, "You can't discharge your gun," then we are saying to them, "You can't even have a gun on the Island."

If you can't discharge it, you might as well not have it, but there are a lot of other uses for guns than just hunting. There is a lot more involved.

MRS. BAYER: In my opinion, there is something definitely wrong somewhere.

MR. WINFREE: May I ask a question, Mr. Chairman?

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Winfree.

MR. WINFREE: Is the whole Grand Isle community -- is the entire Island just part of the City of Grand Isle and is it all one municipality?



MRS. BAYER: Yes, sir, we are one municipality.

MR. WINFREE: Now, you have a Mayor and a City Council, is that correct? You do have a Mayor and a City Council?

MRS. BAYER: Yes, sir, you go before them and you talk.

MR. WINFREE: Wait a minute. Let me suggest this to you: Your Mayor and your Council could pass an order to the effect that there would be no discharge of firearms on the Island. They certainly have that authority to do that. We don't, but your City Council does if they so desire to pass an ordinance, that there would be no discharge of firearms or hunting on Grand Isle because it is a city.

MRS. BAYER: You are trying, sir, to tell me that there is no answer to the problem?

MR. WINFREE: I hope I didn't give you that impression. You had asked to try and get a solution. I am just merely making this suggestion. I don't know whether you have done this before or not.



MRS. BAYER: Many years, yes.

MR. WINFREE: What the Chairman has told you is true. We can only enforce a State Law and he has guaranteed that the Wild Life and Fisheries people will support the State Law and will enforce it, but we cannot supersede or make a law. We can't do that, and we in effect would be making a law saying that there would be no discharge of guns and that the people can't shoot a gun, but your City Council can do that.

MR. THOMPSON: We can't restrict an area.

MR. KYLE: Mrs. Bayer, there are several towns that I know of in South Louisiana that are bird sanctuaries and this was under the law. This can be designated by City Council and with a bird sanctuary, they can discharge no guns within the municipality.

We haven't got the authority to designate it. This is by the Mayor and the Council.

MRS. BAYER: Well, could this governing group maybe write a letter to my City Council saying



that you all are in favor of this island being a sanctuary?

THE CHAIRMAN: I really think it would be more proper for the people of Grand Isle to present this. I really think the people of Grand Isle should tell the Mayor and the Council.

MRS. BAYER: Well, some of our Councilmen are doing the hunting so that puts concerned people like this on the spot.

Honestly, I came before you because I saw it in the newspaper and I thought you had the solution. I really thought you could do it.

THE CHAIRMAN: We don't really have the authority. If we did, it would just be something on paper. We have no authority.

MRS. BAYER: Well, thank you for listening to me, though.

THE CHAIRMAN: Dr. Ford, No. 7.

DR. FORD: Mr. Chairman, we have a request here which has been reviewed by Dr. St. Amant.

The letter reads as follows:

"Attached here is a letter from



the Marshland Dredging Company
with the necessary plats
attached requesting a permit
to dredge sand from the Mississippi
River between Mile 203.5 and Mile
204.0 out from the West Bank.

This application meets
all of the requirements set forth
by the Commission and it is
recommended that a permit be
granted to cover this question.

I suggest for your
consideration the following
Resolution:

"BE IT RESOLVED that the
the Louisiana Wild Life
and Fisheries Commission
does hereby grant per-
mission to the Marshland
Dredging Company to
dredge sand from the
Mississippi River between



Mile 203.5 and Mile 204.0,
out from the West Bank.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED
that the Director be and
he is hereby authorized
and empowered to sign any
and all documents in
connection therewith."

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the
recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. KYLE: So moved.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Kyle.

MR. GUIDRY: I second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by
Mr. Kyle and seconded by Mr. Guidry. Is there any
discussion?

(NO RESPONSE)

THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, so ordered.

(Whereupon, a vote was
taken and the motion
was carried unanimously.)



THE CHAIRMAN: Now we will hear about
No. 8:

DR. FORD: Number 8 relates to the oyster season for the year 1969 and '70. A survey of the reefs at Calcasieu Lake was made very recently. We found that approximately 70 per cent of the live oysters were in the 3-inch class or larger. Of those in the two to three-inch, most of them were closer to three inches.

We did the survey last year, the first of last year, and the oysters of the first class were extremely short and this was due to low temperatures and there were very low experienced in that area. Since then, there has been a fall set and this will no doubt be helpful. We have checked with the Board of Health for this area and they have made their survey and have determined that the area is in good shape and that the oysters can be harvested with no restrictions.

We make the following recommendations:

R E S O L U T I O N:

"WHEREAS, the Commission



biologists have made a survey of the oysters of Calcasieu Lake including the West Cove area and found that oysters are available in commercial numbers although limited, and

WHEREAS, the chief of the Oyster Division has recommended the fishing of these available oysters, and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Health has recently examined the growing waters of this area and has found that the waters of Calcasieu Lake including the West Cove area with the exception of the Calcasieu River and Ship Channel, East Fork, West Fork and Oyster Bayou, are approved waters for fishing oysters, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Wild Life and Fisheries



Commission at its regular monthly meeting on October 28, 1969 does hereby set and fix the Calcasieu Lake oyster season for 1969-70, as follows:

(1) That the oyster season in Calcasieu Lake be fixed to extend from daylight Friday, November 14, 1969, through sunset Friday, April 10, 1970.

(2) That oyster fishing be limited only to the use of tongs and to daylight hours.

(3) The open areas shall be confined to Calcasieu Lake including the West Cove area, with the exception of the Calcasieu River and Ship Channel, East Fork, West Fork and Oyster Bayou which shall be closed.

(4) The 3-inch culling



law shall be observed by all fishermen fishing the area and the culls shall be scattered around the perimeter of the reefs to provide for expansion and future harvesting.

(5) The taking of oysters for home consumption shall be limited to three bushels (two sacks) per boat per day.

(6) All commercial fishing of oysters shall be done only with proper licenses."

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. WINFREE: Do these oysters belong to the State?

DR. FORD: Yes, sir.

MR. WINFREE: And they are taken free for the asking by a shore fisherman? Does he have a license?



DR. FORD: No, sir, a man would not have to be licensed.

MR. WINFREE: You said he could get two sacks a day?

DR. FORD: Yes, sir.

MR. WINFREE: Did the Commission plant them or did they grow naturally?

DR. FORD: They grew naturally.

This is to provide for two things: First, it is a cooperative effort on our part with the State Board of Health to keep track of the commercial fishermen so that the oysters that are already invested go through sanitary facilities and those oysters reaching the market in this area are in good condition. This is a provision.

MR. WINFREE: Let me ask you this: Do you anticipate now when this Commission takes this action for the oyster fishermen for them to just flock over there?

DR. FORD: Not normally. Several years ago when the reefs were in excellent condition and before some extensive maintenance and enlargement



of Calcasieu River Ship Channel, then they would harvest something on the order of 130,000 sacks a year in that area and it wasn't even with tongs.

Many of these oysters were shipped to the East Coast which had a short supply. It was a very helpful economic factor in that area at the time. The shrimp crops were running a little on the short side and normally what happens is many of the fishermen would turn to oystering when the shrimp are running short. They also would utilize this, even the fishermen that are oystering that time of the year in that area.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. WINFREE: I move.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Winfree.

MR. THOMPSON: I second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been seconded by Mr. Thompson. Is there any discussion?

(NO RESPONSE)

THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, so ordered.



(Whereupon, a vote was taken
and the motion was passed
unanimously.)

THE CHAIRMAN: Now we will hear about
8A.

DR. FORD: The next item relates to the
Houma Area Field Station. Approximately two or three
years ago, the Commission acquired a piece of
property for the purpose of establishing a field
station in that area.

We asked that the Louisiana Department
of Public Works prepare a plan to specifications
for a structure which would meet our needs. They
have prepared these plans and specifications and
received public bids yesterday. The funds for this
would come from Act No. 12, Section 5, which would
provide for some capital outlay for oyster divisions
in this area.

The bids range from a high of \$1,000.00 to
a low of \$62,000.00.

Accordingly, I recommend the following
for your consideration:



R E S O L U T I O N :

"WHEREAS, the Commission
acquired a tract of land in the
vicinity of Bourg, Louisiana,
for the purpose of establishing
the Houma Area Field Station, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana
Department of Public Works has
prepared the plans and specifica-
tions for this facility, advertising
the same, and received public bids
at 2:00 p.m., October 27, 1969, and

WHEREAS, it appears as though
the Division of Oysters, Water
Bottoms and Seafoods has the
available funds to cover the cost
of construction of this facility,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,
by the Louisiana Wild Life and
Fisheries Commission at its regular
October Meeting on October 28, 1969,



does hereby authorize and

direct its Director to:

(1) accept the lowest acceptable bid for this project subject to the formal confirmation by the Louisiana Department of Public Works,

(2) execute any and all documents for contracting this work with the lowest acceptable bidder, and,

(3) forward all such contracts to the State Division of Administration for their acceptance and authorization in accordance with the law."

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. GUIDRY: I so move.

MR. THOMPSON: I second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Guidry and seconded by Mr. Thompson.



Is there any further discussion?

77

Is there any objection?

(NO RESPONSE)

THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, so ordered.

(Whereupon, a vote was
taken and the motion
was passed unanimously.)

DR. FORD: Thank you, sir.

MR. ENSMINGER: The hurricane that swept
across our lower Louisiana Coast, across the
Mississippi Delta, cleaned out our public hunting
camps at Pass-a-Loutre. We were able to salvage
one of the nine buildings. We are presently using
it as a temporary headquarters site there at our
main headquarters.

These buildings were built back in 1954
and occupied approximately 30,000 acres of our 66,000
acre tract of land. At the time they were constructed,
there was a very dire need for public water fowl
hunting areas in Louisiana.

Since that time, the demand for overnight
facilities has lessened as a result of a lot of people



owning small boats that are capable of going back and forth to the mouth of the river and in analyzing considerable data that is available to the Commission, we have found that the 20,000 acre portion of Pass-a-Loutre that was used as a free open area for hunting was providing more recreation than the public camp areas, so with this in view, we have come with a recommendation that we would like to recommend to the Commission that the area that has been occupied by the public camps in the past be opened to the public hunting free of charge with no permits required on the entire area and that overnight camping be permitted in that area for public water fowl purposes.

We have the following resolution for your approval:

R E S O L U T I O N:

"WHEREAS, the Louisiana
Wild Life and Fisheries Commission
owns the Pass-a-Loutre Waterfowl
Management Area, located in
Plaquemines Parish, which was
severly damaged by Hurricane



Camille making it impractical
to continue with the present
waterfowl hunting program, and

WHEREAS, the nine public
hunting camps used for this
purpose were destroyed by the
hurricane, and

WHEREAS, the Commission is
interested in providing maximum
recreation opportunities on the
area, and

WHEREAS, this can be
accomplished by more liberal
hunting procedures.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED
by the Louisiana Wild Life and
Fisheries Commission, at its
regular public meeting held on
October 28, 1969, does hereby
proclaim that the Pass-a-Loutre
Waterfowl Management Area,
located west of South Pass,



be opened on a day long basis
and that the remainder of the
area be opened for morning
hunting only closing at 12 noon.
Overnight camping shall be
permitted on the area. There
shall be no permanent claim
to blind sites, hunting areas
or camping sites."

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the
recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. KYLE: I so move.

MR. WRIGHT: I second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr.
Kyle and seconded by Mr. Wright. Is there any
discussion?

MR. WINFREE: Let me ask you this: This
actually means that there would be greater areas
provided for the public ever than before, is that
correct?

MR. ENSMINGER: This is true, Mr.
Winfree. As I mentioned, there are approximately



30,000 acres of the total of 66,000 acres that have been reserved in the past for hunting by these nine public camps so this area will be open now to just anyone that has facilities of their own, that can get down there and hunt, so it will increase the hunting area available to the general public for hunting.

MR. WINFREE: I think that the New Orleans Federation ought to know about that so he can tell his people.

MR. ENSMINGER: We plan to get out a newsletter to this effect.

The camp program was a very expensive program. It is one that was providing quality hunting for a limited number of people only.

MR. THOMPSON: May I go in and stop you and tell you that maybe you are a little bit wrong in what you are about to say. What I think he is going to tell us is that your budget doesn't allow us to rebuild this thing at the present time, but I would say this: Let it lay like it is now and if and at the proper time the situation changes, it will be changed.



What I am interested in is whether you are going to have it. I know you had quite a few more people than you could accommodate down there. Now, it wasn't the fault of the public not using the facilities.

MR. ENSMINGER: Our record, Mr. Bridgeman, indicates that this very true particularly on opening weekend and the first one or two weekends of the hunting season.

The weekday hunting on Pass-a-Loutre, after the first Tuesday and Wednesday, hunting was never full. We had a maximum usually of 40 or 45 people that applied for hunting in the 72 vacancies, and of this number, 35 out of 40 would be all that would show up to hunt except during the Christmas vacation.

Also, our records show that the number of people that repeated going down there was quite high so it appears that the people who are in a position to get away from their employment or who were not employed, or retired people were utilizing the area quite heavily.



THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any discussion on the question?

MR. McGOVERN: New Orleans Sportsmen's League.

Would the days be restricted again to two periods of hunting a week or would it be that you come down whenever you can?

MR. ENSMINGER: Jim, the area would be open for the entire waterfowl season, morning shooting only on the area east of South Pass. That small portion of land that we own on the West Bank of South Pass would be open for shooting all day long.

We would permit afternoon shooting on that area.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. We have a motion and a second. Is there any other discussion, any objections?

(NO RESPONSE)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(Whereupon, a vote was taken and the motion was carried unanimously.)



MR. ENSMINGER: The next item on the Agenda is the offer to sell to the Commission certain camp facilities on our Salvador Wild Life Management Area by Mr. Shilstone.

This consists of a very nice hunting camp that Mr. Shilstone built out there several years ago, a large boathouse and generator facilities and what-have-you.

Mr. Shilstone has offered this to the Commission at a price of \$20,500.00 and we have had an appraisal made of the property and it was far in excess of his offer.

Mr. Chairman, we present the following Resolution for your approval:

R E S O L U T I O N

"WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission owns a tract of land in St. Charles Parish known as the Salvador Wildlife Management Area, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cecil M. Shilstone has offered to sell to the Commission



for the sum of \$20,500.00
various property which he owns
and is located on the Commission
property, and

WHEREAS, the facilities
being offered by Mr. Shilstone
would adequately serve as a
headquarters' site for the
Commission in its management
program, and

WHEREAS, a detailed
appraisal has been made of these
facilities and found to be valued
in excess of the amount being
requested by Mr. Shilstone,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT
RESOLVED that the Louisiana
Wild Life and Fisheries Commission
does hereby authorize and direct
its Director to request the
Louisiana Division of Administra-
tion to purchase the facilities,



set forth in Mr. Shilstone's offer to sell for the purpose of providing headquarter facilities on the Salvador Wildlife Management Area."

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. NORTH: I so move.

MR. WINFREE: I second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. North and seconded by Mr. Winfree. Is there any discussion?

(NO RESPONSE)

THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, so ordered.

(Whereupon, a vote was taken and the motion was carried unanimously.)

MR. ENSMINGER: The next item I have on the Agenda for your consideration is a small portion of land that adjoins our Coulee Wildlife Refuge in Morehouse Parish.

This property is owned by Missouri



Pacific Railroad. It lies, as I say, on the northeast 87
edge of the Refuge.

For your approval, I present the
following Resolution:

R E S O L U T I O N:

"WHEREAS, The Louisiana
Wild Life and Fisheries Commission
has under lease a tract of land
in Morehouse Parish, Louisiana
for the purpose of a wildlife
refuge known as the Coulee
Wildlife Refuge, and

WHEREAS, the Missouri
Pacific Railroad owns property
adjacent to the northern
boundary of the Coulee Refuge,

WHEREAS, it would be
advantageous to the Louisiana
Wild Life and Fisheries
Commission to include the
Missouri Pacific right-of-way
within the boundaries of



the Coulee Wildlife Refuge, and

WHEREAS, the Missouri Pacific Railroad has indicated that they would consider including the property within the boundaries of the refuge,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby authorize and direct its Director to negotiate a lease with the Missouri Pacific Railroad on that portion of their property located in Morehouse Parish, La., between the Bayou Bonne Idee trestle and the west line of Section 2, Township 19 South, Range 6 East."

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. THOMPSON: I so move.

MR. WRIGHT: I second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr.



Thompson and seconded by Mr. Wright. Is there any further discussion or any objections?

89

(NO RESPONSE)

THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, so ordered.

(Whereupon, a vote was taken and the motion was carried unanimously.)

MR. HERRING: Mr. Chairman, we have received a request concerning the deer season in certain portions of Tensas Parish. In this request, they ask that they have two seasons, one five days on the first part of the deer season and a second part being 10 days during the second portion.

Our field personnel outside of our district office have checked this area out and they have found that they do have an excessive number of deer and we should have a doe season to help thin the animals down.

R E S O L U T I O N:

"WHEREAS, the Louisiana
Wild Life and Fisheries
Commission did receive a



resolution from the Tensas
Parish Police Jury requesting
an either sex deer season on
the Winter Quarters Area in
said Parish.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED
that the Louisiana Wild Life
and Fisheries Commission does
hereby declare an any sex deer
season for the first five days
of the regular open season,
November 22-26, 1969. Said
period being granted in order
for the season to conform with
the remainder of the parish.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED
that the area pertaining to
the aforementioned season
shall be described as follows:
bounded on the south and west
by Yucatan Chute, on the east
by the Mississippi River and



on the north by the Mississippi
River Levee."

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the
recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. THOMPSON: I move.

MR. NORTH: I second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr.
Thompson and seconded by Mr. North. Is there any
discussions or objections?

(NO RESPONSE)

THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, so ordered.

MR. HERRING: Number 13.

Mr. Chairman, we have also received a
request from the Madison Parish Police Jury to permit
a five-day any deer season in an area known as
Paw Paw Island or Marshall Point.

Our field personnel also have
investigated this area and we have found that it is
permissible to have, you might say, an any sex season
here because of the heavy deer population.

We would recommend the following



Resolution for your consideration:

92

R E S O L U T I O N:

"WHEREAS, the Louisiana
Wild Life and Fisheries Commission
did receive a resolution from the
Madison Parish Police Jury requesting
an either sex deer season on the
Paw Paw Island(Marshall Point)area

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED
that the Louisiana Wild Life and
Fisheries Commission does hereby
declare an any sex deer season
for the first five days of the
regular gun season, November 22-26,
1969, which should give sufficient
time to reduce the herd and assist
in the problem of balancing the
population. Said any sex deer
season is designed for the Paw Paw
Island area.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the



recommendation. What is your pleasure?

93

MR. WRIGHT: I so move.

MR. NORTH: I second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Wright and seconded by Mr. North.

Is there any discussion, any objections?

(NO RESPONSE)

THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, so ordered.

(Whereupon, a vote was taken
and the motion was passed
unanimously.)

MR. HERRING: No. 14.

The next item on the Agenda, Mr. Chairman, is a request from Mr. G. M. Alexander of Sibley, Louisiana, who is requesting permission to dig a canal approximately 1,000 feet long from his camp on the northeast side of Lake Bistineau to the main channel.

He also wants to place a spoilbank in such a manner to provide a walkway for the public fishermen or others who would just like to walk along this canal and fish.



Our field personnel out of the District
1 office have checked this out on Lake Bistineau
and found it would have no detrimental effect to
management, overall management, of Lake Bistineau.
However, I would like to make the following
recommendation:

Should the canal be approved, that it
would be approximately 1,000 feet long and at the
top of the opening would be approximately 20 feet
wide and that the spoil be placed on one side so it
could be used for a public fishing pier, and should
other camp owners desire, that they could connect
into this canal so that they too would have access
out to the deep water.

We present the following resolution for
your approval:

R E S O L U T I O N

"BE IT RESOLVED that the
Louisiana Wild Life and
Fisheries Commission does
hereby grant permission to
G. M. Alexander of Sibley,
Louisiana to dig a canal from



his camp to the channel for boat access purposes into Lake Bistineau. Permission is hereby granted provided Mr. Alexander adhere to certain terms and conditions as stipulated in the agreement which shall be binding upon him."

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. WINFREE: I think it is all fine, but I don't think you ought to put that many restrictions on a man that wants to build a canal. I think the spoils are correct, but I think you are going a little far. If he is going to go up and spend a lot of money to get out of the lake from his own camp and he should let John Doe and everyone else come on that canal, as long as it is a good navigable canal, I think we should go along with it. I don't think we should tell him he has got to let the public get on his canal.

THE CHAIRMAN: It is a public lake.

MR. WINFREE: I understand that there are



camps all over this lake. This man is trying to get a canal from his own camp at low water to get out to the center of the lake. That's fine. People can utilize that canal, but if we start telling him he is going to have to let people come on that canal and fish, that's what I am talking about.

MR. THOMPSON: It's already a law that they could so why put it in there?

MR. WRIGHT: I wouldn't advertise it.

MR. WINFREE: I think he ought to have the right to build his canal. I don't think we need all these restrictions other than the spoils and that sort of thing. That's just my own opinion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any other discussion?

MR. WINFREE: I move we grant the canal.

THE CHAIRMAN: What restrictions do you want to recommend?

MR. HERRING: That the canal be approximately 1,000 feet long and have a 21 foot top opening and that the spoil be placed on one side.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the motion



by Mr. Winfree. Is there a second?

MR. WRIGHT: I second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any other further discussion, any objections?

(NO RESPONSE)

THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, so ordered.

MR. HERRING: The next item was the item we discussed yesterday on the Bodcau Headquarters and also the Workshop Facilities, pumphouse and other accessories to go with the area for the Bodcau Wild Life Management Area.

We present the following recommendation for your approval:

R E S O L U T I O N

"WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission did request the Louisiana Division of Administration to advertise for bids for the construction of residence and workshop facilities on the Bodcau Wildlife Management Area, and



WHEREAS, a total of six (6) bids were received, with Howard Lumber Company of Minden, Louisiana, being the lowest bid submitted and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission did receive notification that the low bid submitted is a good one and that said company is a reputable concern.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby request the Louisiana Division of Administration to issue a contract to the low bidder, Howard Lumber Company of Minden, Louisiana, in the amount of \$51,085.83 for the construction of the Bodcau Wildlife Management Area Headquarters Facility.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that



the Director be and he is
hereby authorized and empowered
to sign any and all documents
in connection therewith."

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the
recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. KYLE: I so move.

MR. WRIGHT: I second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any further
discussion?

(NO RESPONSE)

THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, so ordered.

(Whereupon, a vote was
taken and the motion
was carried unanimously.)

MR. HOFFPAUER: Gentlemen, as you know
we have been charged with the responsibility on this
oyster patrol certification of the oysters. We are
hung with that, so to say.

Also, the mounting pollution problem.

What I would like to do is to release
two of the airplanes that we have now assigned to more



or less enforcement work of ship patrol and so forth, 100
and assign them to oyster patrol and polution work.

This would leave us without a twin-
engine airplane which we do need first of all, for
transportation and secondly for offshore patrolling.

With your approval on this, I would like
to go ahead and purchase a twin-engine airplane of some
sort which we undoubtedly need.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the
question and recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. THOMPSON: I so move.

MR. WRIGHT: I second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr.
Thompson and seconded by Mr. Wright. Is there any
discussion, any objection?

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Hoffpauer, I was present
at the meeting of all the oyster representatives in
the State Department of Health and yourself that all
congregated in Baton Rouge some weeks ago when this
unfavorable publicity of the polution of oysters --
they even had the people of the State of Louisiana
afraid to eat oysters and had everyone shook up about



it and it was a serious problem and at that time I think it should be explained that that comes under the jurisdiction of the State Department of Health and it's not the responsibility of this Commission, but at the present time it was decided and agreed upon by the State Department and you as the Director of the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission and the Governor of the State of Louisiana that this Commission should take over that problem of patrolling and being sure that the oysters of Louisiana were well received, is that correct?

MR. HOFFPAUER: That's right.

MR. WINFREE: That leads now to this airplane?

MR. HOFFPAUER: Right.

MR. WINFREE: I so move.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any further discussion?

(NO RESPONSE)

THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, so ordered.

(Whereupon, a vote was taken

and the motion was passed

unanimously.)



THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any other business to come before the Commission?

MR. THOMPSON: I move that we adjourn.

MR. WRIGHT: I second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: The meeting is adjourned.

. . . . Thereupon, the Board
Meeting of the National
Wild Life and Fisheries
Commission was adjourned
at 11:55 o'clock a.m., on
Tuesday, October 28, 1969. . . .

